

Testimony on HB 5100
An Act Allowing Police Officers to Apply for
Security Service Licenses

Transportation Committee Public Hearing
February 23, 2011

*Found
in Transportation
packet for
Public Hearing
on 2-23*

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner, and Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Wayne Wirth and I live in Bristol, Connecticut.

I am a retired police sergeant, having served 34 years with the Meriden Police Department.

I am currently employed, in my fifth year as an armed security officer with the Yale New Haven Hospital.

During the summer months I worked for the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer.

I am here to voice my support for House Bill No. 5100 – An Act Concerning Security Service Licenses.

When House Bill No. 5100 was first introduced on January 06, 2011 I forwarded to you a (5) page work time line beginning on June 12, 2000 and abruptly ending in July of 2010.

In this time line I have detailed my work for 10 years, working as a police officer, as a Special Conservation Officer and as an armed security officer at different times together.

With statutory laws and corporate policies and procedures in place, I have demonstrated for 4 1/2 years that there can be harmony without any problems or conflicts when working for a law enforcement agency and as an armed security officer at the same time.

It also shows the inconsistencies within Sec. 29-161j as it appears in Senate Bill # 70 (Public Act 04-192) and how it was interpreted and then enforced for (6) years by the Department of Public Safety (Special Licensing and Firearms Unit) in Middletown, Connecticut.

With the passage of House Bill No. 5100 it will correct past mistakes of interpretation and allow highly trained and experienced professional police officers to obtain a security license.

A highly trained experienced police officer with a security license can only be a plus to any potential employer wishing to hire. This would raise the working standards for a licensed security officer.

This benefit will also allow any highly skilled officer to act immediately "when the bell goes off" responding to any emergency situation that may arise, thus minimizing a potential threat or hazard to the public.

I am just one of many within the State of Connecticut that this bill affects now and will in the future with both career changes and financial obligations.

Hopefully, I have gained your support and you will pass House Bill No. 5100 along to make a police officer eligible for a security service license.

I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak before you today at this public hearing.

Sincerely,

Wayne Wirth
Bristol, CT

WORK TIME LINE # 4

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2000

I worked at the Meriden Police Department as a full time certified police officer with full vested police powers. I was certified through P.O.S.T.C #5640.
I started work **June 12, 2000** with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

2001

I worked at the Meriden Police Department as a full time certified police officer with full vested police powers. I was certified through P.O.S.T.C. #5640.
I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

2002

I worked at the Meriden Police Department as a full time certified police officer with full vested police powers. I was certified through P.O.S.T.C. #5640.
I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

2003

I worked at the Meriden Police Department as a full time certified police officer with full vested police powers. I was certified through P.O.S.T.C. #5640.
I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

2004

I worked at the Meriden Police Department as a full time certified police officer with full vested police powers. I was certified through P.O.S.T.C #5640.
I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

OCTOBER 01, 2004 – Public Act No. 04-192 An Act Concerning Licensing And Training Of Private Detectives And Guard Services And Security Personnel Services.

No member of the state, or any town, city or borough, police force or any other person vested with police powers shall be eligible for a license under the provisions of (this chapter) sections 29-153 to 29-161, inclusive, as amended by the act. If the applicant is a corporation, association or partnership, no person comprising the corporation, association or partnership may be such a member or person.

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From 2000 to 2004 I worked at the Meriden Police Department as a full time certified police officer with full arrest powers. I was certified through P.O.S.T.C #5640. I also worked for the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position that began in May and ended in September. This was a total of 5 years that I worked for both of these agencies (**holding two badges of authority**) without any problems or conflicts between the City of Meriden and the State of Connecticut.

2005

I worked at the Meriden Police Department as a full time certified police officer with full vested police powers. I was certified through P.O.S.T.C. #5640. I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

June 20, 2005

Knowing that I was going to retire from the police department in the near future I took an 8 hour firearms class and range qualification course for my Security Officer's Class 1 Blue Card License. It was taken through R.P.S Special Services Inc. in Meriden at a cost of \$174.00.

June 24, 2005

***I received my State of Connecticut Security Guard I.D. Card (**Permit No. 13812**) from the Department of Public Safety (Division of State Police) Special Licensing & Firearms Unit in Middletown, Connecticut. At the time of my application for this license I checked the appropriate box on the Department of Public Safety application that I had **arrest powers**. The Department of Public Safety was well aware that I was a full time certified police officer from Meriden. (**This card shouldn't have been issued to me based on Section 29-161j that is in Public Act 04-192**). (I was a full time member of the Meriden Police Department with vested police powers). I never knew or was told by anyone in that unit that I couldn't have a license.

August 26, 2005

I then retired from the Meriden Police Department after 34 years of services to the department. I relinquished my vested police powers. I also turned into the training division officer my P.O.S.T.C. # 5640. The P.O.S.T.C. card that was turned in had an expiration date of **June 30, 2008**.

2006

On February 06, 2006 I started working at Yale New Haven Hospital (Protective Services) in New Haven, Connecticut as an armed Senior Patrol Officer.

I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

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2007

I continued to work for Yale New Haven Hospital (Protective Services) in New Haven, Connecticut as an armed Senior Patrol Officer.

I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

2008

I continued to work for Yale New Haven Hospital (Protective Services) in New Haven, Connecticut as an armed Senior Patrol Officer.

I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

June 30, 2008

My P.O.S.T.C. card # 5640 that I used as a full time certified police officer for the Meriden Police Department **expires**. I no longer have any certification status to go to another police department to work as a certified police officer with vested police powers.

October 01, 2008 – Public Act No. 08-73 An Act Concerning The Licensing And Training Of Private Detectives, Guard Services and Security Personnel.

Sec. 29-161j – Persons vested police powers ineligible for licensure. No member of the state, or any town, city or borough, police force or any other person vested with police powers shall be eligible for a license under the provisions of sections 29-161g to 29-161x, inclusive. If the applicant is a corporation, association or partnership, no person comprising the corporation, association or partnership may be such a member or person.

2009

I continued to work for Yale New Haven Hospital (Protective Services) in New Haven, Connecticut as an armed Senior Patrol Officer.

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March 11, 2009

***I renewed my State of Connecticut Security Guard I. D. Card (**Permit No. 13812**) from the Department of Public Safety (Division of State Police) Special Licensing & Firearms Unit in Middletown, Connecticut. The cost was \$50.00. The newly issues I.D. Card has an expiration date of **March 24, 2014**. Nothing again was said or mentioned to me be about **Sec. 29-161j**. This security guard I.D. card shouldn't have be renewed based on **Section 29-161j** that is in Public Act No. 08-73.

2009

I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

2010

I continued to work for Yale New Haven Hospital (Protective Services) in New Haven, Connecticut as an armed Senior Patrol Officer.
I continued to work with the Department of Environmental Protection as a Special Conservation Officer. This was an appointed seasonal position pursuant to **Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-5** that begins in May and ends in October.

MAY 2010

Lt. Dave D'Agostino who works for the Yale New Haven Hospital (Protective Services) in New Haven, Connecticut as an Administrator Supervisor advised all of the full time police officer who work for the hospital as casual officers (part time) that the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety (Division of State Police) Special Licensing & Firearms Unit in Middletown, Connecticut was going to "**grand-father everyone and not to worry**" about Section 29-161j.

JULY 2010

***Now all of a sudden after (6) years of "**not knowing or being told**" by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety (Division of State Police) Special Licensing & Firearms Unit in Middletown, Connecticut is claiming that I have "**vested police powers**" while I am working for the Department of Environmental Protection as an appointed seasonal Special Conservation Officer.

***The Special Licensing & Firearms Unit in Middletown is "now" telling me after 6 years of not enforcing Public Act No. 04-192 & Public Act No. 08-73 that I can't be a seasonal Special Conservation Officer and work at Yale New Haven Hospital as an armed security officer at the same time. However a police officer can hold two separate jobs of authority and (2) badges without being questioned. This does not seem fair at all.

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***The Special Licensing & Firearms Unit also told my primary employer Yale New Haven Hospital that they have 90 days to comply with Sec.29-161j and that their employees could be fined if they didn't comply.

A FINAL NOTE_From February 2006 thru July 2010 (well over 4 1/2 years) while working for both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Yale New Haven Hospital there were no conflicts or problems at all between the two employers.